

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-28 of the present application.

By the foregoing amendments, claims 7, 8, 13, 22 and 26 are amended. No new matter is added. Thus, claims 1-28 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

Objection to the Drawings

In the Office Action mailed March 23, 2005, drawing Figures 1 and 3 were objected to for allegedly being labeled as "Pri r Art" as opposed to "Prior Art". Applicant respectfully traverses this objection, as follows.

Figures 1 and 3 as originally filed include the proper legend "Prior Art." Thus, original Figures 1 and 3 are in compliance with U.S. patent practice. Copies of Figures 1 and 3 as originally filed are submitted herewith.

Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Objection to Claims 1-28

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-28 were objected to for informalities. Claims 7, 8, 13, 22 and 26 have been amended as suggested on page 3 of the outstanding Office Action in response to the objections to claims 7-28 set forth on page 3 of the outstanding Office Action. If any additional amendment is necessary to overcome the objections to claims 7-28 set forth on

page 3, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

In addition, Applicant respectfully traverses the objection to claims 1-7 set forth on page 2 of the outstanding Office Action, which includes a suggested amendment of claim 1. Specifically, the outstanding Office Action suggested amending claim 1 at line 18 to include the language "wherein the level shift circuit further includes" after "and," as follows:

a current control circuit connected between the first power supply and wherein the level shift circuit further includes the first differential amplification circuit to selectively switch the input circuit between an activated state and a standby state...

However, the first differential amplification circuit recited in claim 1 corresponds to the first differential amplification circuit 15 of Figs. 8 and 9 and as described in the specification at page 14, lines 24-31. The first differential amplification circuit 15, which is in functional block 11 of Fig. 8, is not part of the shift level circuit 16, which is in functional block 12 of Figs. 8 and 9. Therefore, amending claim 1 to recite that the level shift circuit includes the first differential amplification circuit, as suggested, would misstate the present invention as recited in claims 1-7. Thus, withdrawal of this objection to claims 1-7 is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims 5 and 6 Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the outstanding Office Action claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, as follows.

In rejecting claim 5, the Office Action asserts:

the recitation "wherein the second circuit includes a constantly activated transistor" is misdescriptive since it is inconsistent with what is disclosed and shown. Note that Figure 14 clearly shows the second circuit (transistors 62a-62b) is control [sic] by current control signal S1, so the second circuit is turned on/off depending the control signal S1 which is switched between the standby state and the activated state.

Office Action of March 23, 2005, at p. 4.

However, the second circuit of claim 5 refers, for example, to shift level circuit 16 of Fig. 9. As shown in Fig. 9 and described at p. 19, lines 24-33 of the specification, the shift level circuit 16 includes a transistor 27, which is connected to the first power supply V1, so that, even in a standby state, transistor 27 remains activated. Therefore, claim 5 is consistent with what is described and shown in the specification.

In rejecting claim 6, the Office Action asserts:

the recitation "wherein the second circuit includes a transistor having a gate connected to the first power supply is misdescriptive." [sic] Note that Figure 14 shows the second circuit (transistors 62a-62b) is controlled by the signal S1 (not by the first power supply).

Id.

However, the second circuit of claim 6 refers, for example, to shift level circuit 16 of Fig. 9. As shown in Fig. 9 and described at p. 16, lines 19-21 of the specification, the shift level circuit 16 includes a transistor 27, which has a gate connected to the first power supply V1. Therefore, claim 6 is consistent with what is described and shown in the specification.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Allowable Subject Matter

The outstanding Office Action indicated that claims 1-4 and 7-28 contain allowable subject matter. By the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant has overcome the informal objection to claims 1-4 and 7-28. Thus, a Notice of Allowability of claims 1-4 and 7-28 is earnestly solicited.

The outstanding Office Action further indicated that claims 5 and 6 contain allowable subject matter. By the foregoing remarks, Applicant has overcome the rejection of claims 5 and 6 under 35 USC § 112. Thus, a Notice of Allowability of claims 5 and 6 is also respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing docket number 108075-00121.

Respectfully submitted,

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